

November 26, 2008

Happy Thanksgiving!

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

A bulletin to keep you and your neighbors informed of current news and happenings in our community. If you do not get this bulletin directly, feel free to email me at cbball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be sure to get you on the list.

For more District 2 News go to our website at:

www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CC_DistrictTwo.htm

****Important Temporary Relocation Information****

The Howard County Council Office Has Moved!

As of October 17th the Howard County Council Office has relocated to **8930 Stanford Boulevard, Columbia, Maryland, 21045.**

Phone numbers and the mailing address will remain the same.
We apologize for any inconvenience.

As of **October 6, 2008** Council public hearings, legislative sessions, and work sessions will be held at **the Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042.** Council monthly meetings will be held at the Ascend One Building, **8930 Stanford Blvd., Columbia, MD 21045.**

All public hearings and legislative sessions are cablecast live on Gtv, Howard County Government Cable Channel, Comcast channel 70 and are closed captioned for the hearing impaired.

Directions to 8930 Stanford Boulevard:

From Ellicott City:

Take US Route 29 South towards Columbia
Take Exit 20A – MD Route 175 East towards LAUREL
Take a RIGHT onto S. Dobbin Road
Take a LEFT onto Stanford Blvd.
Building and parking lot will be on your immediate LEFT.

From points South:

Take US 29 North towards Baltimore
Take Exit 20A – MD Route 175 East towards LAUREL
Take a RIGHT onto S. Dobbin Road
Take a LEFT onto Stanford Blvd.
Building and parking lot will be on your immediate LEFT.

For further information, please call **410-313-2001**.

We Want To Hear From You!

The link below will navigate you to a list of meetings open to the public. If you have specific questions please call the contact number listed for that meeting.

http://www.co.ho.md.us/News/HCG_Portal_PublicMeetings.htm

How Can You Participate in Howard County Government?

This is your chance to stay informed and involved! Your comments are welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email or fax. All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**. Click the following link for the Council's calendar of meetings

http://www.co.ho.md.us/CountyCouncil/CC_Legislative_CouncilCalendar.htm

View the Council's Current Legislation and Stay Informed

The County Council is responsible for adopting the laws of the County. The legislative process generally follows a monthly cycle. To view legislation under consideration by the Council, please click on the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/Legislative_Pending.htm

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Persons interested in applying for a Board or Commission are invited to view the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/PortalServices/HC_BoardsandCommissions.htm

Report an Illegal Sign

You can help us by reporting Illegal Signs with a new online form. The form is available at the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/Permits/Permits_signs_Illegal.asp .

Please be sure to describe the location of the illegal sign in the free-form textual area at the bottom of the form.

For further information on the County's sign code, the sign permit application process, sign sizes, fees and for other answers to frequently asked questions, visit the Department of Inspections, Licenses & Permits page on the County's website

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DILP/DILP_HomePage.htm or call DILP at 410-313-1830.

Pardon Our Dust!

You may have seen or may see some road work in your neighborhood. Howard County Department of Public Works will be conducting the following construction projects. Additional information is provided below describing the details of such projects.

Paving:

Dorsey Run Road

Lark Brown Road (Route 108 to Waterloo Road)

For questions or concerns, contact **Lisa Brightwell**, Public Works Customer Service, at **410-313-3440**, or by e-mail to publicworks@howardcountymd.gov.

Planning Board Hearing Schedule for Columbia ZRA's!

The Howard County Planning Board will hear the following Zoning Regulation Amendments in December. Those who are interested in testifying at the meetings may sign up at **5pm on the day of the meeting**. Written comments may be mailed or emailed to planningboard@howardcountymd.gov up to the day before the scheduled public hearing.

For more information you may contact **Bob Lalush** at (410) 313-2350 or click the following link <http://www.co.ho.md.us/dpz/boardscommissions.htm#planning%20board>

- **Thursday, December 4, 2008**
6:30 p.m. - Cafeteria, Wilde Lake Middle School, Columbia MD 21045

ZRA 102 -Wilde Lake Business Trust – Village Center
Redevelopment

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA102.pdf>

Technical Staff Report

<http://www.co.ho.md.us/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA102TSR.pdf>

- **Thursday, December 11, 2008 - No Testimony**
7:00 p.m. - The Bain Center, 5470 Ruth Keeton Way, Columbia MD 21044

ZRA 113 - Submitted by the Honorable Mary Kay Sigaty at the request of General Growth Properties, Inc. (amend 2000 General Plan and Zoning Regulations related to Downtown Columbia)

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/CountyCouncil/CCdocs/ZRA113.pdf>

Technical Staff Report:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA113StaffReport.pdf>

Appendices:

<http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPZ/DPZDocs/ZRA113Appendices.pdf>

Citizen's Budget Hearing December 18th!

County Executive Ken Ulman will hold his first Citizens' Budget Hearing for the FY2010 budget cycle on **Thursday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.** in the **Department of Education's Board Room, 10910 Route 108 in Ellicott City.**

Beginning on **December 3, 2008**, citizens will be able to sign up ON LINE to speak at the hearing by going to the County's website, **www.howardcountymd.gov** and **clicking on the Budget Testimony** link provided near the top right corner of the homepage. From that same link, citizens will also have the option to provide on-line budget testimony; however, citizens are reminded internet testimony is considered public information and, as such, is subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

Citizens who do not wish to sign up on line, will still be able to sign up in person on the night of the public hearing beginning at 6:30 p.m. In order to be fair the County will alternate from the two lists (those who have signed up previously online and those who have signed up that evening) to determine the final speaking order. Speakers must sign up individually, and one person may not sign up for several testifiers.

A sign language interpreter may be requested for the meeting by calling the Department of Citizen Services, **410-313-6400 or 410-313-6401 (TTY)** at least seven days in advance.

“Can the Grease” to Protect the Environment!

Howard County urges its residents to “Can the Grease” to prevent sewage system overflows that can cause environmental and health concerns.

Five other water and wastewater utilities including Howard County have joined forces to send a message this holiday urging residents to “Can the Grease”. Fats, oils and grease cause half of all sanitary sewer overflows nationwide.

Residents are reminded of their important role during this holiday season in preventing plumbing problems both in their residents and in the associated sanitary sewer systems. Homeowners are reminded to:

- Never pour kitchen grease or oils down the drain.
- Fats, oils and grease can clog sewer pipes, leading to basement back-ups and sewer overflows that can damage your home and the environment.
- Pour cooled grease into a can (a soup can works great) and throw it in the trash.

For more information about Bureau of Utilities FOG Program, visit them online at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/dpw/u_fog.htm or contact them at (410) 313-4900.

New Howard County Recycling Bins to be Distributed!

Many of you have received new wheeled recycling carts or bins from the County at no charge. Door hangers with information about the new program and recycling bins have been distributed by the Department of Public Works. For additional information you may visit the Bureau of Environmental Services website at http://www.howardcountymd.gov/DPW/Environmental_Homepage.htm or contact the office by phone at (410) 313-6444.

Track the Delivery of Your New Bin!

For an interactive map that details information about the delivery of your new recycling bin please click the following link <http://gis.howardcountymd.gov/EnvironmentalServices/GMyRecycle.asp>

Want to Exchange Your New Bin?

Exchanges of recycling carts and bins to different sized containers can be made by calling (410) 313-6444. Exchanges and removals will be performed on weekends (Saturday and Sunday). Please have your recycling container out near where your normal collections occur **after 6 pm on Friday**. Residents do not need to be home for the swap.

New Bins Means New Recyclable Items!!

The County's new wheeled recycling carts and bins can now be filled with additional plastic, aluminum and waxed cardboard products. This includes common household items such as plastic yogurt tubs, lawn furniture and flower pots, aluminum foil and pie plates, milk and juice cartons, and much more.

Residents can also recycle bags filled with plastic bags as long as the bag is tied shut. A postcard describing all of the new recycling options will be

mailed to every Howard County residence that receives Recycling Collection Service.

Also, previously used plastic trash cans and recycling bins may now be picked up at curbside recycling. However, they may need to be labeled so the Recycling Collection Service knows to recycle the can or bin.

Department of Recreation & Parks Announces Deer Management Program for 2008-2009

The Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks has announced its fall/winter schedule of managed deer hunts. The hunts will be held in an effort to help maintain a stable, balanced white-tailed deer population in our parks where deer browsing has been shown to reduce biodiversity.

Since the program began in 1998, there has been an observable improvement in habitat quality and vegetation abundance in many of the parks where managed hunting has taken place. As a result, the amount of hunting in Alpha Ridge Park, David Force Park, High Ridge Park and the Middle Patuxent Environmental Area has been reduced to a level needed to manage deer abundance and protect natural resources. The County has reduced the number of managed hunting days by two. This year's managed hunts will include a combination of bow and shotgun hunting. **Hunting hours are from dawn until 12 noon**, and each park will be closed for all other uses during this time. The hunting schedule is as follows:

Blandair Park:

Bow Hunting	December 3, 17; January 29
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David Force Park:

Bow & Shotgun	December 18; January 15; February 5
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High Ridge Park:

Bow & Shotgun	December 4
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NEW!! FREESTYLE – Teen Drop In Center in Jessup!

Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks is opening Freestyle, a new teen drop-in center at **Ridgley's Run Community Center, 8400 Mission Road, Jessup, MD** conveniently located a ½ mile off of Washington Boulevard.

Freestyle is a new teen drop-in program where teens can come hang out together. Freestyle is a program designed for teens by teens. Freestyle provides a safe haven for teens entering 7th-12th grades to get away from it all. The center offers a choice of hanging out with friends, playing basketball and video games, listening to music, having a snack at the Snack Shop and other activities. The center will be open from **6:00PM to 9:30PM** on

December 4th: Holiday Party!

The cost: \$5. Registration is not required. For more details **contact Danielle Bassett at 410-313-1693** or dbassett@howardcountymd.gov

Spirit of Columbia Scholarship

The CA Scholarship Program offers up to six \$2,500 education awards to graduating high school seniors who exhibit exceptional efforts in providing community service in the Columbia area. Students who attend Howard County public or private school, live in Columbia, and maintain a C average, are eligible to apply for the scholarship award.

<http://www.columbiaassociation.com/pdfs/getinvolved/SpiritOfColumbiaApplication.pdf>

Application deadline is March 2, 2009.

Track County Snowplows!!

As winter approaches residents can check the progress of the County's snow removal vehicles by clicking on the “**snowflake**” icon on the County's homepage at www.howardcountymd.gov and viewing the snow tracker map.

Thanks to global positioning devices on Howard County's snow vehicles, the snow tracker map shows the current location of snow plow vehicles, roads that have been treated, whether roads were plowed or salted, and the location of roads still to be treated. During a snowstorm, residents can also receive updated recorded information on road conditions by calling **Howard County's Citizen Information Hotline at 410-313-2900**.

To assist highway crews during a storm, residents with driveways are asked to park there and leave streets and cul-de-sacs clear whenever possible so snow removal vehicles can do their jobs quickly and public safety vehicles will have easier access in emergencies.

The Howard County snow plan covers more than 1,000 miles of a 3,800-road system which is divided into a series of routes. Primary and secondary roads receive the first service to ensure that public safety vehicles can provide service to citizens--then local residential roads are serviced. For further information please contact the Department of Public Works, **Bureau of Highways at (410) 313-7450**.

Child Development Centers Openings!

The Public Schools Employees' Child Development Program provides care for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years. On a space-available basis, children from the larger community may enroll in the program. The program currently has openings at Oakland Mills High School. For more information, call 410-888-9040 or visit <http://www.psecdp.com>

Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community, designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation, and to encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors. For more information please contact the Howard County Police Department at **410-313-2200**.

Make a Difference for a Howard County Senior!

Be a Neighbor Ride volunteer driver and make a difference to a Howard County senior. Daytime, evening and weekend volunteer opportunities are available. Seniors are able to maintain their quality of life by attending activities when transportation is available.

Please contact **Rosemary Noble at 410-884-RIDE (7433)** or [**volunteer@neighborride.org**](mailto:volunteer@neighborride.org) for more information or to volunteer.

Upcoming Volunteer Orientation Dates:

Monday, December 2 – 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 17 – 6 p.m.

Blandair Regional Park News!

The Recreation and Parks Advisory Board unanimously voted to adopt the proposed 2008 Blandair Master Plan. The consultant will now move towards the design phase of this project. The Master Plan is scheduled for submittal to the Department of Planning and Zoning in February 2009. To view the full project schedule please click the following link

[**http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_BlandairRegPark.htm**](http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAP_BlandairRegPark.htm)

Thank you to the Blandair Advisory Committee for all of their hard work and dedication, especially those members who represented the residents and communities in council district 2.

To view the proposed plan click the following link

http://www.howardcountymd.gov/RAP/RAPDocs/2008_Blandair_Master_Plan.pdf

You are encouraged to participate in the planning process of Blandair. To submit comments, questions or concerns via email you may contact **rdelerme@howardcountymd.gov** . Written comments may be submitted to **Gary J. Arthur, Director, Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks, 7120 Oakland Mills Road, Columbia MD 21046.**